

RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE) DETERMINATION

Project Name: Conde Blow Down Roadside Salvage **BLM Office:** Ashland RA, Medford District
Phone #: (541) 618-2200

Location: *Conde Creek drainage - T 37S R3E Sections 19, 20*

Description of the Proposed Action:

The purpose of this project is to capture the economic value of recently downed timber resulting from the 2007-2008 winter wind storms. The project would remove and sell commercial sized trees that have been blown over or had tops blown out due to the windstorm. Some trees have the tops broken off 30-40 feet up the bole. The lower portions of some of these trees could be cut, felled and removed.

Some trees would be sold for commercial use while others would be felled and left on site for resource protection needs. Some trees are rotten or broken and are not suitable for commercial wood products. These would be left in place to provide coarse wood debris needs.

There are approximately 207 trees that would be salvaged along BLM roads 38-3E-17.0, 37-3E-19.6, 37-3E-19.0.

The trees would be sold commercially when the following criteria are met:

- The tree has fallen or the top has been broken off due to 2007-2008 winter wind storms.
- The tree has fallen across or is within 300 feet of a system "open" road (open refers to a road currently inventoried in the BLM transportation system and includes gated roads).
- The tree is not needed on site for coarse woody debris. Coarse woody debris standards call for a minimum of 120 linear feet per acre greater than or equal to 16" diameter and 16 feet long.
- Removal would have no effect on Heritage Resource sites.
- Removal would have no effect on Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species.
- Removal would have no effect on Bureau Sensitive Species.
- The trees are not in a Late Successional Reserve.
- The trees are not in a restricted Riparian Reserve.

Trees that meet the above criteria would be sold at market value. Logging method would be ground based using a skidder with cable winch. Mechanized equipment would be confined to existing roads only. If falling is needed for any of the broken off trees, directional falling would be used to the extent possible to minimize disturbance to the ground. Ditch lines, road cut banks and road surfaces would be cleaned by the operator.

Some downed trees would be cleared from "open" roads through routine road maintenance activities that are separate from this project proposal. This material could also be sold commercially with this project.

Removing downed trees within 1/4 mile of a nesting northern spotted or great gray owl may require delaying work until after the nesting seasons (nesting season is March 15 to September 30 for spotted owl, and March 1 to 15 July for great gray owls). At this time, there are no known owl sites less than 1/4 of a mile from the blow down removal area.

The proposed action is in compliance with and is tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP) as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994).

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 C (2). The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 4.2 apply. The proposed action will:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Edward Reilly Environmental Coordinator 2/25/08
Prepared by Title Date

John Samuelson Forest Manager 2/25/08
Reviewed by Title Date

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria listed above for an exception to a categorical exclusion and does not fall under any exception as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 4.2. Therefore, this project is categorically excluded from NEPA documentation under 516 DM 11.9, C (2). This section allows for "Sale and removal of individual trees or small groups of trees which are dead, diseased, injured or which constitute a safety hazard, and where access for the removal requires no more than maintenance to existing roads".

DECISION

Based on this NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and that no further environmental analysis is required.

It is my decision to authorize the Conde Blow Down Roadside Salvage Project as described above in the Proposed Action.

 Field Manager 2/27/08
Approved by Title Date

EFFECTIVE DECISION DATE

This decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending any protest. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.

U.S.D.I. MEDFORD DISTRICT SALE
Conde BLOW DOWN TIMBER SALE
 T37S, R3E, SEC. 19, 20

TIMBER SALE CONTRACT MAP
 CONTRACT NO. OR110-TS08-07
 EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 1

